

## Commercial District Committee Maps Plans for Delmar

On June 4, the Commercial District Committee met at the West End Community Center. Representatives of Cash America, a nationwide chain of pawnshops, made a presentation that discussed their desire to enlarge their facility on Delmar just east of DesPeres. They want to expand their present store in the back and put in more landscaping. They also wish to redo their parking lot. They will get rid of the trailer now there. They will have to present actual design plans to the Committee, the SDCC, the 5900 DeGiverville block unit, and Heritage and Urban Design before they can begin to proceed.

A groundbreaking ceremony is planned for June 17 at 9:00 am for the new MetroLink parking lot at the Delmar station. Call the SDCC at 862-5122 for further information. They are sponsoring a mini-planning session in June dealing with pedestrian traffic at Rosedale and Delmar. The Committee will participate. Alderman Dan McGuire plans to help to fund new signage and a pedestrian walkway for the area. Another planning session for Delmar is being scheduled which will address the area around the Delmar station. There will be a facilitator and the hiring of a consultant for the planning process will be explored.

## POLICE REPORT GOOD NEWS

On June 5 at 7pm, about 35 neighbors met at Grace Methodist Church to hear presentations from the captain of the 7<sup>th</sup> District of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police and the Public Affairs Officer. The most significant news is that crime is down considerably in our neighborhood and in the Central West End in the first five months of this year. Captain Harry Hegger said that he was working on cleaning up Delmar and was using special patrols. The district now has radar guns and these will be used to enforce speed limits on neighborhood streets. Captain Hegger responded to individual queries and said that citizens may call him at 444-0027, his direct line, if they have issues they need to discuss.

Public Affairs Officer Ronnie Robinson gave a presentation on gang activity, graffiti, and trafficking in crack cocaine. He mentioned that gangs exist in all Missouri cities including Moberly, Hannibal, Sikeston, New Madrid, and Columbia. He said that youngsters join gangs to gain respect through violence, to establish turf for drug dealing, and most of all to make money through the drug trade. Robinson showed two videos to illustrate his remarks.

Work is proceeding on the examination of those businesses with liquor licenses on Delmar to see that they operate under the same restrictions.



From the Missouri Historical Society's exhibition, *Meet Me at the Fair, Memory, History, and the 1904 World's Fair*, opening June 22. Shown here are orphan children at the Belgium Pavillion. Photo courtesy Missouri Historical Society.

## MSD Schedules July 18 Public Meeting On Proposed Tunnel

The Metropolitan Sewer District plans to construct a deep tunnel running from Arsenal to Kingsland in University City in order to alleviate flooding that has occurred along

the River des Peres along Midland and along Vernon. MSD has scheduled an open line meeting for Thursday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Missouri Historical Society Library and Research Center, 225 S. Skinker. All are welcome to attend.

At present, there will be four drilling sites on Skinker adjacent to Forest Park. Two drilling sites will probably most affect residents of Skinker DeBaliviere. One site will be on the southeast corner of Forest Park Parkway and Skinker, across from Talayna's restaurant. The other is to be at Enright and Skinker.

As mentioned in a previous issue of this paper, the making of this tunnel will produce considerable vibrations and noise and residences near by will be tested to see if they can absorb the shock. Officials will be present at the 7/18 meeting to explain the tunnel and its construction.

## West End Community Council Provides Recreation for Area Children and Youth

Thanks to the philanthropy of the St. Louis Jewish Community and grants from the St. Louis Development Corporation, the West End Community Conference, founded 40 years ago, has spearheaded the renovation of its facility on Union at Enright. Their Center is offering a variety of programs that residents of Skinker DeBaliviere can take part in. Beginning on June 17, there will be a summer camp for those aged 7-13. The camp meets every weekday from 9am to 3:30pm. Lots of field trips are planned. The cost is \$20 which will cover all transportation. Those interested may call 367-7049 or 367-0640.

The Recreation Division of the City of St. Louis will operate the newly refurbished swimming pool at the Center. Everyone is welcome. The city will have a schedule posted. It is free. The city will be running the pool and will assume liability. There is also a game and exercise room provided by Consolidated Communities.

The Center also has a totally redone gymnasium with brand-new scoreboard. Midnight Basketball took place there several times this year and the Center will be part of the summer schedule. At 4pm every day, youngsters are welcome to come and shoot hoops. Several city watchmen with contact to the police are always present.

With this issue *The Times* goes on its annual vacation. See you in September!

Can you guess what these are for?

See NIMBY story on page 3.



# Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

If you read the Post Dispatch or watch the evening news on television, you know that certain St. Louisans have not paid their personal property tax. Others evade this particular tax by continuing to drive with out-of-state license plates, often expired, long after they have taken up residence in our city. The personal property tax is not a common one. It is employed chiefly by Southern states who actually tax their citizens very lightly. Missouri, a border state, is also a low tax state and assesses you for the value of your automobile. I cannot believe that this is a popular tax but it helps to fund public schools, community colleges and the Zoo-Museum district. If you are a fulltime student from another state, you do not have to pay. Otherwise, you do. I spot violators every day. I'll bet you can too.

The Times embarks on a two month hiatus so its bedraggled editor and board members can rest from their labors. We will be covering stories in the interim and would love to hear from you about possible stories and we also appreciate suggestions. Thanks and have a wonderful summer.

## TO OUR READERS AND POTENTIAL WRITERS:

**We're wired!** If you would like to submit a story or information on which we can base a story, you can now communicate with us through the information highway! Marj Weir's America Online address is WeirMarj@aol.com. Recent experience suggests that users of other services should probably enter the address as weirmarj@aol.com.

Those who are "old hands" at the Internet will know how to attach a text file to their message, which we can then download.

We are not yet technically sophisticated enough to do justice to any photo you might transmit, so please leave that to the U.S. Mail or to the "Sneaker Net."

**Your wonderful face!** We would like to have more pictures from our readers, and unlike the big newspapers, we will return them if requested to do so. If you're having a wedding or celebration of any kind and you get some good pictures, whether amateur or professional, please share the best one with us. Be sure to include the names of those in the picture and some background on the event or circumstances. We want to write a good caption. Color photos are all most people get these days, and although they don't reproduce quite as well as black and white, if the contrast is good, they should be fine.

## Reminder:

**The Times is not printed in July or August.  
Our next publication will be in September.**

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein  
Business Manager: JoAnn Vatcha  
Production Manager: Marj Weir

The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for-profit, independent, community organization. Members of the Board of Directors are:

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Marcia Kerz	Loretta Lloyd	Juliet Schoemehl	JoAnn Vatcha
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### Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of The Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents. All material - articles, letters, notices, classified ads - must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Copy may be submitted on computer diskette if the diskette is in DOS format or on high density Macintosh diskettes. Submissions on diskette should be accompanied by a printout of the article, the name of the word processing software in which it is written, and the full name and address of the party to whom the diskette should be returned. The signature on correspondence to the editor may be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned in to the editor at 721-7532, or mailed to 5855 Nina Place, 63112.

The deadline for all copy is the 18th of the month.

The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, locations, and particularly the spelling of names.

Pictures or illustrations should be in black and white. Color photographs often do not reproduce well.

The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

# Calendar



## Neighborhood Events and Meetings

- 6/10 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors. SDCC Offices, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m.
- 6/17 Bi-State Groundbreaking for new MetroLink Parking Lot. (near the Delmar Station, behind Crescent Plumbing), 9:00 a.m.
- 6/17 Apartment Owners Association. SDCC Offices, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.
- 6/25 Hamilton Elementary C.E.C. Board Meeting. Hamilton ECEC, 5819 Westminster.
- 6/27 Meeting regarding Central Corridor expansion of MetroLink, possibly along the south side of the Forest Park Expressway. Call SDCC for time and location.
- 7/15 Apartment Owners Association. SDCC Offices, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.
- 7/18 Neighborhood meeting re: MSD Tunnel. Missouri Historical Society, Skinker Boulevard, 7:00 p.m.
- 7/29 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting. SDCC Offices, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m.
- 8/6 National Night Out. Four Corners Park, 6:00 p.m. Watch for details.

### Events yet to be scheduled:

Neighbors Review of Nina Place Passive Park.  
West End Arts Council Summer Concerts Series Schedule.  
Central Corridor Transit Plans Presentation.

## Other Events of Interest

- thru 6/29 Opera Theatre of St. Louis presents four operas: Puccini's La Rondine, Rossini's The Barber of Seville, Mozart's La Clemenza di Tito, and Britten's The Rape of Lucretia. Call 961-0644 for availability and prices.
- 6/17-23 Juneteenth Festival: The "Ville," Kiener Plaza & Soldiers Memorial present celebrations that reflect upon the freedoms, talents, struggles and faith of the African-American community. Call 652-6366 for a schedule.
- 6/18 Twilight Tuesday: After the Fair. The Metro Brass Quartet performs outside the History Museum at Forest Park at 7pm. World's Fair artifacts will be displayed. Free.
- 6/18 The Legend of White Snake, Chinese opera, performed at the St. Louis Art Museum by Fu Hsing Chinese Opera Mission, Taiwan. For ticket information, call the Chinese Culture Center at 567-5540.
- 6/22 Exhibition Opening: Meet Me at the Fair, Memory, History, and the 1904 World's Fair. At the History Museum in Forest Park, the exhibit will examine the fair's impact on civic and personal memory in the 20th century. The exhibit will be on display for five years. Free.
- 6/23 New Music Circle presents St. Louis Alive, work of St. Louis composers/performers at 5 Central West End art galleries and in a free outdoor performance from 12:30 to 5:30pm. Galleries are at 415 N. Euclid, 4729 and 4727 McPherson, 4658 Maryland, and 44 Maryland Plaza.
- 7/16 Summertime Fun: African Expedition at the History Museum in Forest Park. Reservations are required. Dancing, drumming, songs and stories from the African continent.
- 7/23 Summer Evenings at the Fair: Discussion of all the magnificent eateries at the 1904 World's Fair where 36,650 patrons could dine at one time. History Museum in Forest Park, 7pm, free.

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# Neighbors Win EPA Approval for NIMBY

by Tim Schoemehl

On April 30, 1996, long-time Skinker-Debaliviere residents Neville Vatcha (61XX Westminster) and George Genung (63XX Washington) received final EPA approval for their N.I.M.B.Y. (Not In My Back Yard) squirrel-repellent spray. EPA approval will allow them to begin bottling and marketing the spray through DMX industries, the company which they own.

The NIMBY spray is designed to repel squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, deer, dogs and other animals with a sense of smell. It can be applied to plants and flowers to prevent these animals from damaging them. The spray is non-toxic and is made from natural oils. The smell irritates animals which come into contact with it, but does not cause any damage, Neville said. The solution is water soluble and must be re-applied after a rain or after plants have been watered. Joe Giambalvo, the plant manager at DMX, used the spray in his garden last summer while NIMBY was still in the test phase. "We were having a dry spell and I decided to try it on my tomato plants and see how long it took before a squirrel took one of my tomatoes. After I applied spray and we didn't have any rain for a month, I watered the plants at the roots, not the leaves, so that the spray wouldn't wash off. It took a month before a squirrel ate one of my tomatoes. Then I just reapplied the spray." The spray can also be applied to

areas around garbage cans to deter animals which might overturn them. It can also be applied near bird feeders to repel other animals. Because birds lack a sense of smell, the spray will not repel them and they will continue to use the feeder.

Neville began working on NIMBY in March, 1993, after a conversation with George. George explained that when squirrels gnaw through the covering of outdoor electric wiring, power outages occur. He was trying to develop a covering which would be thick enough or strong enough to prevent squirrels from gnawing through it. "I realized that squirrels will chew on and damage anything, even steel. What was needed was something to repel and deter squirrels before they could damage it," Neville said. After their discussion, they began working in Neville's basement to develop a formula. For the first tests, they made small plastic containers, identical except that some were made with NIMBY in the plastic. They filled the containers with peanut butter to attract squirrels and placed them in their back yards. In a series of tests, squirrels ate the peanut butter in the untreated containers, but did not eat from the treated plastic.

While they had developed their product for industrial purposes, they also realized that it could have consumer uses. "This gave us access to a much larger market," Neville explained.

During the summer of 1993

Neville and George began seeking EPA approval for a squirrel repellent which could be marketed to consumers. At this time, Neville's wife JoAnn suggested the name NIMBY for their product. In the fall of 1993 Neville and George drove to Washington, DC, and spoke with an EPA representative regarding the approval process. After returning, they repeated their tests following more



formalized procedures, and recorded their results for the EPA. "Our actual application was only 4 or 5 pages, but the supporting data is 300-400 pages," Neville explained. In the fall of 1994 they submitted the application.

JoAnn handled most of the paper work which was involved from the time the application was submitted until they received approval. "I guess I understood some of the bureaucratic language, but I don't

think it helped speed up the process," JoAnn said, referring to the 18 months which the EPA took to approve their application. After an application is submitted, the EPA will reply within 90 days, noting anything which needs to be changed. "After we submitted the application, we received a list of concerns the EPA had. Most of their concerns dealt with our label, where we put our warnings and our ingredients, what size type we used on our warnings, things like that. We made the changes over a period of a few weeks and resubmitted the application. 90 days later we received a couple of new questions from them. We went through this cycle five or six times before we had final approval," JoAnn explained.

Neville is now looking for a commercial bottler for the spray and hopes to have one by the end of the month. Meanwhile George is working on marketing. He and Neville hope that the product will be available at garden shops and nature stores by the end of the summer. Neville and George are also seeking clarification from the EPA which would allow them to market plastic strips treated with NIMBY which could be wrapped around the trunks of trees and keep away animals such as deer which might damage the trees. Earlier this month, Neville, JoAnn, George and his wife Debbie were all named recipients of the Boatmen's Bank excellence in minority small business award for 1996 in recognition of the work DMX has done in building their business over the last two years.

# Vicissitudes

by Lana Stein and Marj Weir

**Lynn Woolfolk**, resident manager of Rosedale Square apartments on Washington was one of the Olympic torch bearers when the torch passed through St. Louis on Tuesday, May 28.

Our Neighborhood Stabilization Officer (NSO) for the last year and a half has been **Jackie Wellington**. Many of us have profited from her able assistance and her calm and mature manner. Jackie has resigned taking a job with the planning office of St. Louis County. Her talents will be greatly missed. The SDCC Board and its Director, and Alderman Dan McGuire honored her at the June 10 council meeting.

**Mary Schmit** reports that her garage has been infested by carpenter bees who are slowly but methodically eating away her storage shed. Hers is not the first siting of these very destructive insects. Exterminators are on the way.

**Jill McGuire** recently hosted two major conventions of organizations which fund the arts at the local level. The conferences were held at the Adams Mark and speakers included Jane Alexander of the N. E. A., former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, and actor Avery Brooks. Guests enjoyed a visit to Circus Flora and City Hall.

Here's a big Well Done! to neighborhood graduates we learned about. (Did you call?)

First our high school grads: **Kara Schnaible**, 62XX Pershing, will attend Southeast Missouri State. **Ed Knoten** of 63XX Pershing will enter Loyola Univer-

sity in New Orleans. **Emily Gerard**, 4XX Westgate, will major in psychology at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. **Brian Perrin**, of 51XX Washington, heads for MIT. **Jeremy Schoenfeld** of 61XX Westminster will prepare for a career in architecture at the University of Cincinnati. **George Helfers**, 62XX Waterman will go to Webster University. **Ben Fanson** of 62XX McPherson will attend Truman State (formerly known as Northeast Missouri State).

Graduating from the US Naval Academy is **John Duckett**, son of Phil and Cathy Duckett of 62XX McPherson. **Conrad Knoten** takes his degree in Criminal Justice from St. Louis University at this year's exercises. He is the son of Tom and Christine Knoten (and Ed's brother), who live on 63XX Pershing.

Special thanks go to **Tina Gerard, Lois Schoemehl and Tim Schoemehl** for valuable research!

# Irish Film Maker and Photographer Entertains Neighborhood

Thanks to a grant from the Regional Arts Commission, the West End Arts Council, which is co-chaired by Roy Roncal and Andy Cross, were able to assist in bringing Bob Quinn, a distinguished film maker and photographer to St. Louis. Quinn is a resident of Galway in Ireland, a sister city. On Wednesday, May 15, the West End Arts Council, assisted by SDCC Executive Director Laure Porterfield, held a neighborhood reception for Quinn at Four Corners. On a beautiful, rainfree evening, over 100 people looked at a sample of Quinn's photographs and partook of various refreshments. Quinn showed one of his films, Poitin, about moonshiners on the Emerald Isle.

Patrick Donelan, chair of Galway Sister Cities and a member of the board of the Regional Arts Commission, was in attendance with several colleagues. He was pleased with Quinn's visit because it inaugurates an exchange program between St. Louis and Galway. Neighborhood artist Bill Christman will visit the Galway Arts Festival in July, the first Missourian ever invited. Donelan grew up in Skinker DeBaliviere and was glad to return for this event.

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## Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council History and Purpose

by Laure Porterfield

"What is it that you will actually do at the office every day?" My mother asked that question when I told her about the exciting opportunities awaiting me with the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. And it is a question regularly raised in one form or another when I am out in our community, working with neighborhood residents, various city offices or service providers, even our own supporters.

While neighborhood groups come together, sometimes around a single issue, to address a single problem, or to provide a particular service, the Council is unique in St. Louis for several reasons. Founded in 1966 (yes, this is our 30th anniversary), the Council was created to reflect an institutional membership that includes: Washington University, St. Roch Catholic Church, Grace Methodist Church, New Cote Brillante Church and member neighborhoods Rosedale, Parkview, Kingsbury Square, and sections of Washington Heights.

The original charter for the Council extends from Union Boulevard west to the City Limit and from the north alley on Delmar to Forest Park, including the Caitlin Tract on Lindell Boulevard. In recent times at least, the functioning heart of the Council has been DeBaliviere west to City Limit and Delmar to Forest Park Expressway.

The Council is charged with improving the neighborhood including housing, safety, beautification and recreation. It serves as liaison between the neighborhood and city agencies, such as building inspectors, Heritage and Urban Design, and Forestry; it works closely to address security issues with the police. The Council also takes the lead in addressing neighbors' concerns about noise, traffic and/or health issues in nearby properties.

The Council office serves as coordinator for our Block Captain structure, for neighborhood-wide events such as National Night Out, for neighborhood-based activities such as the Concert Series in the Four Corners Park and Rags to Riches Yard Sale in the early fall. Groups like the Apartment Owners Association and Delmar Business Association, as well as Board Committees like the Historic District Review Committee and the Commercial District Committee, the Recreation Committee and Social Services Committee also function through the SDCC office.

On any given day, calls to the office range from complaints about barking dogs, queries about permits/processes necessary to complete home repairs, information about questionable traffic/activity in the area, reports of feral (wild) cats

traveling in packs in the alley, and requests for information about housing available in the neighborhood.

The history of this area is as rich and diverse as our current constituencies. The St. Louis World's Fair spurred the rapid development of the neighborhood, which followed a very forward-looking mixed-use plan that included multi-family flats and apartments on the perimeters (to allow easy access to public transportation) and clusters of large, single-family homes and similarly-scaled two-family homes on interior streets.

The neighborhood was designated a Local Historic District by the City of St. Louis in 1978 and the Parkview Subdivision is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Nearly all homes in our neighborhood include high ceilings, large windows, and spacious rooms; many are decorated with exquisite millwork, art glass, and mantles of early 20th century style. The consistent architecture and scale of the buildings contributes to the overall visual harmony of the neighborhood.

The Council has existed for thirty years because of its ability to grow and change, reflecting the shifting concerns in our City as well as our neighborhood. Under the very able leadership of our current Board President, Gary Hayes, the Council is reorganizing its committee structure to better meet the needs of our neighbors. Housing, social services, recreation and communication - between neighbors, with the city, between our own churches, schools and businesses - are some of the on-going topics that are being redefined and readdressed. Your involvement is necessary for us to progress.

Are you interested in helping elderly residents in our neighborhood? Do you want to work on a neighborhood-wide security committee or any other committee for that matter? Can you share a special talent or skill? Can you water plants at Four Corners Park for one week during the summer? Can you motivate your neighbors to follow your example - by keeping your porch light turned on, by picking up alley trash even when you didn't put it there, by helping an elderly neighbor keep grass cut or weeds trimmed?

Skinker-DeBaliviere has been described as "One of the most vital and livable neighborhoods in the metropolitan area." The care and dedication of our residents and our institutions has brought us this far. It is essential that we continue to come together for the future. Neighborhoods are very fragile things. Hard work and the dedication of many have brought us to a very lovely "present;" your involvement and commitment can help assure an even better future.

Come to a Community Council meeting. Work on the West End Arts Council, also based at the SDCC office. Help our recreation committee with basketball or baseball over the summer. Host a picnic for your block in your back yard. Please, get involved.

Call the Skinker DeBaliviere Council offices at 862-5122.

## Hamilton Spotlight

by Betsy King

This month's spotlight is on the second annual end-of-year carnival, which took place on May 31st. We were blessed with beautiful weather that day, and the carnival was an overwhelming success! The most popular attraction by many accounts was the Moonwalk. We also had many exciting game booths and added train rides this year. Hamilton teachers Boyce Smith and Ray Roques served as the engineers. The rest of the teachers sold tickets or food or worked the games. Tickets were awarded as prizes, which could be traded for toys and other treasures at the redemption booth. Here, according to students, were some of the highlights:

Fourth grader Tara Mills commented, "It was fun! I won a whole bunch of tickets and I got a real watch for 25 tickets. I got a pair of glasses, a ball and a back scratcher, too. My favorite booth was the one where you knock down the blocks because I won 70 tickets! I liked the Moonwalk. When I was jumping in it, I found 50 cents."

"I played games and I had fun in the Moonwalk," added second grader Vanetta Bost. "I won 80 tickets and I got a basketball. My favorite was the pizza booth."

Second grader Tiffany Taylor effused, "I thought the carnival was fun! They had that jumping thing (the Moonwalk) and they sold popcorn and cotton candy and they had pizza. I liked that game when we threw the round Frisbee things onto the cones because it was fun and I won a lot of tickets."

"I liked the Moonwalk and how the whole carnival was set up," stated fourth grader Brandon Payne. "I liked the train ride. I rode it three times! I liked the booth when you throw the tennis ball into the diamonds. If you landed on the 20, you got 75 tickets. I liked everything in the redemption booth. The best thing I got was a Chinese finger trap. I also helped serve the drinks. It was a lot of fun!"

The carnival raised \$1500 dollars for Hamilton E.C.E.C. and was a lot of fun for everyone involved. We hope to see many of you at the carnival next year!

Congratulations to the Hamilton E.C.E.C. kindergarten students who officially graduated from kindergarten on Tuesday, June 4th.

During the graduation program, the kindergartners sang the Hamilton School Song, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," "It's a Small World," and "Whistle a Happy Tune." They also recited the poem "Growing," by Adrienne V. Sealy. The Hamilton E.C.E.C. cheerleaders performed, and the students were addressed by School Beat Officer John Cochrine. Receptions were held in each kindergarten classroom for the graduates, their parents and teachers, Mrs. Ruth Trudel, Mrs. Charlotte Mitchell, Mrs. Trisha Martin, and Ms. Sylvia Osikoya.

The end-of-year awards ceremony was held on Friday, June 7th. Selected students from each class were awarded certificates for perfect attendance, citizenship, honor roll, academic achievement, and art achievement. Also, our devoted parent volunteers were recognized for their many hours of service. Entertainment was provided by the Hamilton E.C.E.C. cheerleaders and by the fifth grade girls' choir, led by Hamilton P.O. President Katherine Williams and accompanied on the piano by fifth grade teacher Sharon Ware. They sang, "I'm Just Happy to Be Me," a drug-free song, and "Accentuate the Positive." Congratulations to all of the wonderful, dedicated teachers at Hamilton E.C.E.C. for another year of hard work and academic success.

Now that the school year has come to a close, we are looking forward to the commencement of The Hamilton Holistic Summer Academy, which will be held from June 24 through August 2. More than 300 students applied for 200 positions in the program, which will offer summer enrichment through accelerated, literacy-based learning. The literacy-based activities will incorporate traditional Language Arts and math skills in a non-traditional, holistic format which will include aesthetic, sports, community resource, and entrepreneurial components. This is the first summer for The Hamilton Holistic Summer Academy, and we look forward to reporting its imminent success! The Hamilton Family wishes all members of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community a relaxing, enjoyable summer.



Graceful Fountain, a stereograph made by Keystone View Company, 1904 World's Fair. Courtesy of Missouri Historical Society.

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# Crossroads School Welcomes Billy Handmaker

by Gregory Freeman

Billy Handmaker's eyes light up when you ask him about Crossroads School.

"I'm really energized by the enthusiasm and sense of community that make up Crossroads," he said. That sense, he says, is infectious. After a reception for him at Crossroads in April, "my wife and mother-in-law went on and on about the warmth and sense of community that they felt."

Handmaker finds Crossroads to be a perfect fit for him. A recent dinner with Crossroads parents went well into the evening as participants discussed serious educational issues and concerns. "After dinner, the first thing my wife did was look at me, smile and say 'you're in your element.'"

He couldn't agree more. "I like the look, the feel and the history of Crossroads," he said.

Handmaker comes to Crossroads from Whitfield School, where he's been for seven years. He has no intention of making Crossroads "Whitfield East," however. "Crossroads has its own traditions and I think that's something that makes it special. Had I really wanted to head Whitfield or a school like Whitfield, I would have stayed there, where I was assistant head. I've loved Whitfield, but I'm first and foremost an educator, and Crossroads and Whitfield are two very different places."

Handmaker is a native of Louisville, Ky., and brings an international perspective to his new position. He has a deep interest in international education, and has studied and traveled around the world, including such places as Senegal, The Gambia, Spain, Japan, Hong Kong, Russia, the Middle East, Southeastern Europe and Mainland China. He holds a bachelor of arts in political science and history from George Washington University and a master of arts in teaching and history from Washington Univer-

sity in St. Louis. He's also been a Middle East Studies Fellow at the University of Texas at Austin.

He lives in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood with his wife, Betul Ozmat ("We're a team," he said). She's executive director of the Whittaker Foundation and teaches courses in non-profit management, marketing and public relations at Washington University.

Handmaker loves living near Crossroads. "The fact that we can walk or ride our bikes to Crossroads is exciting," he said.

Mentally, Handmaker and Ozmat have been moving in the direction of Crossroads for a while. The two share a passion for the city, and moved to St. Louis from University City nearly two years ago. "We wanted to live in an area that was socially, economically and ethnically diverse," he said. "And Crossroads has that feeling as well."

Handmaker wants to make sure that Crossroads is academically rigorous. "We're preparing students for the world, and we want them to be the very best they can be," he said.

Just as important, he said, is the continuing use of St. Louis as Crossroads' campus. "I've heard some say that we have a small campus, but we don't," he insisted. "The many institutions of St. Louis are all part of our campus."

Along those lines, he says, "the more connections we can make, the better."

"I'd like to bring the education community more into Crossroads and Crossroads more into the education community" by establishing connections with St. Louis-area colleges and universities and using university resources to help faculty, he said.

"All of us in professional teaching desire to improve our practice and I want to help Crossroads teachers improve their teaching in a collegial and supportive way. We have to

challenge ourselves to always improve, but we also must have support. It's the height of lunacy to ask teachers to improve and then not to support them when they take risks."

Handmaker would like to maintain and increase the diversity at Crossroads. "That's an important element of Crossroads and something that makes it special," he said.

"There's so much potential there to help the school really provide a new model of independent education with a diverse student body. There really is no other school in St. Louis doing what Crossroads is doing. If Crossroads wants to look for models, it has to look outside St. Louis because Crossroads is unique here."

Handmaker wants to bring some positive changes to Crossroads, but cautions that he likes to mull over decisions carefully before making them, and think it's important to keep all decisions in perspective.

"Change can be exciting, but sometimes we can lose sight of what we're originally about," he said. "People get jazzed when we get larger or make changes, but it's important to always remember who we are and what we're all about. I hope to do that at Crossroads."



Crossroads students (l-r) Bertie Babel, Andrew Moore and Evan Brickson with their new principal, Billy Handmaker.

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# Pet Talk

by Stephen A. Brammeier, D.V.M.

*The King and Queen were seated in front of them. Dinner was brought in, but as the servants placed the dishes before us, huge rats ran out from all sides, seized the food, and made off with it. We asked the King and Queen why they stood it, and the King replied, "Stand it, indeed! Have I not offered half my treasure for anything that can rid us of these terrible pests? Still no one has found such a thing."...I sent one of the sailors to the ship to fetch Dick's cat. When Tabby was brought in, you should have seen her. She leaped out of his arms, and in a few minutes had killed all the rats and mice in the room and was busy watching at their holes for any others that might appear. The King was overjoyed.*

From Dick Whittington and His Cat as retold by May Hill.

We have a problem in our neighborhood, but it is not the rats. It's cats. I understand there is a large feral cat population in the alleys of the 6000 and 6100 blocks of Washington and Westminster. One neighbor told me that last year he trapped 14 wild cats. Appar-

ently these cats are bold enough, primarily at night, to intimidate people and their pets in backyards. I have not been down these alleys yet to witness the feline display, but Laure Porterfield from the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council tells me that when she finally convinced someone from St. Louis City



Rabies Control to investigate the situation, they were shocked.

I have had various experiences with feral cats; they can be dangerous, but with patience, many of

them can be tamed, especially kittens. However, trying to trap and tame such a large population would be a daunting task. And, the proverbial farm in the country that would be happy to have our unwanted cats, does not exist.

I am willing to help formulate a plan that would humanely reduce the feral cat population. I have read about veterinarians that have participated in "sterilization and release" programs. Certainly all the cats could not be trapped, sterilized, and released, but it might work for a few. After all, if all the cats were removed, would not the rodent population increase? I've spoken with a representative from Cat Network, an independent rescue organization. They would be willing to lend their expertise as we address the situation. Perhaps concerned individuals in the neighborhood could get together for a discussion of the problem and we could invite someone from Cat Network to attend.

If you are interested in addressing the feral cat problem you can call me at Kingsbury Animal Hospital, 721-6251 or call the SDCC office at 862-5122.

## PET OWNERS TAKE HEED

by Laure Porterfield

Summer offers many opportunities for pet owners to spend time with their dogs. Cool summer mornings and those long balmy nights invite a stroll in the park or through our neighborhood's tree-lined streets.

Along the way, however, the pet owner must continue to be responsible for the pet's behavior. These responsibilities include keeping the dog under restraint at all times and cleaning up the dog's feces.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, it's the old "pooper scooper" article, part II.

Out of consideration for your neighbors, in light of the public health problem presented by animal waste, and finally, because it is the law, you are required to clean up after your pet. While our police have many serious criminal activities to investigate, we are asking them to watch, warn and write summonses when necessary.

While on the subject of pets, please remember to make sure your outside animals have shade and a plentiful water supply during the hot days of summer.

## Minutes of Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council

### Board of Directors Meeting of May 13, 1996

In attendance: Directors Gary Hayes, Ruth Johnson, Glenda Underwood, Jane Geiler, Gregory Freeman, Maggie Hart-Mahon, Ann Smith Carr, Gwendolyn Lazard, Shirley Polk, Juliet Schoemehl, Sara Johnson, and Lana Stein; NSO Jacqueline Wellington; Alderman Daniel J. McGuire; Bi-State Development Agency: Sarah Smith and John Hoffman; and Executive Director Laure Porterfield.

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Gary Hayes. Gary introduced Sarah Smith and John Hoffman, representatives of Bi-State who were with us to present plans for Delmar station parking lot.

#### II. Bi-State Presentation

The Delmar station parking lot will provide 363 parking spaces; there will be an internal sidewalk system; a manned security station, which will be elevated. Parking will be free, open 24 hours with an enclosed decorative fence on the Rosedale side (bids due May 30). Ground breaking is June 17 and should be finished in approximately three months. There will also be 14 handicapped parking spaces and the platform is handicapped-accessible.

#### III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were amended to include Maggie Hart-Mahon's presence. Sara Johnson moved to have the minutes approved; seconded by Ruth Johnson and passed.

#### IV. Treasurer's Report

Maggie Hart-Mahon is working through numbers to reformat the Treasurer's report. Will have a complete report next month. Ruth

Johnson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for last month; seconded by Gary Hayes and passed.

It was suggested that 50 percent of the balance of the account should be put in a CD. The finance committee will consider this and present a recommendation at a future meeting.

#### V. Proposed Committee Structure

Lana Stein requested a copy of the list of by-law characteristics necessary to protect not-for-profit organizations. Gary presented the first draft of the committee restructuring plan for Board discussion. All committees are divided into five standing committees: finance, property, security, neighborhood services, and governance. The proposed committee restructuring is based on by-law revisions of September 1995. According to these by-laws, each standing committee needs two members from the Board of Directors. Board members will have the option of remaining or withdrawing from a committee. All are encouraged to take this draft home and study it to make a decision.

At the next Board meeting the latest copy of the by-laws will be distributed to each member.

Concerns were expressed by Lana Stein that the Apartment Owners, Housing Corporation, Delmar Business Association, Commercial District Planning Committee, and Historic District Committee should not be part of the Property Committee. Lana is not in favor of the change in the Property Committees. Would like the above-mentioned committees to be freestanding. Ann Smith Carr recommended a history or description be generated of each committee.

It was moved by Ruth Johnson that the President appoint a committee to summarize the history and nature of all groups and activities associated with the council and to recommend a revised organizational structure for the next Board meeting. Seconded by Gregory Freeman and passed. The Committee Restructuring Committee will include Lana Stein, Dan McGuire, Laure Porterfield, Gregory Freeman, Jane Geiler, and Gary Hayes as Chair. This committee will meet at the home of Gary Hayes on Wednesday, May 22 at 7 p.m.

#### VI. Executive Director's Report

Laure Porterfield made her report to the Board. A new assistant is needed for the office; Board members are asked to help. Working with animal control to alleviate the cat problem in 6000 and 6100 blocks of Washington and 6000 Westminster.

#### VII. Neighborhoods/Committees

**Commercial District** - Discussion centered around Delmar and Hamilton. Would like to see some restrictions for the high number of liquor stores in that area such as selling to liquor in small bottles. The goal is to diminish litter and loitering in the area. The committee will meet June 4 at WECC.

**Parkview** - The annual meeting will be May 20 and a new representative to the Council will be chosen.

**Recreation** - Registration for softball is Tuesday, May 28 between 5 and 7 p.m. at Lucier Park. Arthelda Busch asked about the status of lighting for the park.

**Beautification** - Brightside Blitz went on despite the rain.

**Nina Place** - Will be able to do some improvements due to payment of fee arrears owed by Westminster Development.

**Rosedale** - One resident requested Rags to Riches be held twice per year. Some residents still prefer June. It is undecided what will be done.

**Washington Heights** - Book store (brandy's) is out of business.

**Washington University** - The student representative will be elected in the fall. Emphasis will be placed on getting someone who lives in the neighborhood.

#### VIII. Other Business

Juliet Schoemehl reported that the new Garden Club will be meeting on Saturday, May 189 to plant two planters on Forest Park Expressway and is looking for areas to plant. Gary Hayes asked for plants for Four Corners.

It was requested that the Council buy weed eater to clean up the Delmar alley in the 6100 block. In lieu of weed eater, Council members volunteered to clean up.

##### A. Board Survey

Meetings will remain the second Monday of each month and continue to be held at SDCC but at 7 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m.

##### B. Facilities Report

Two walls could be removed in the office to create a larger meeting space. Our present meeting room would become the director's office and a storage area. Will discuss with landlord. Board members generally agree we're on the right track. Laure and Gary will continue to pursue this and report findings to the membership at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.



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